

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

- 1 1. (Currently Amended) A method of monitoring and controlling power consumption  
2 comprising:  
3 reading power consumption data using an automatic reader;  
4 collecting the data from the reader [in] into a computer memory device;  
5 creating a forecast of electric power consumption for a predetermined period of time  
6 using [the] a computer system, wherein the computer system is used in the creation of a forecast  
7 based on usage for a portion of the predetermined period of time; and  
8 controlling an amount of power consumption by controlling a device that consumes  
9 power based on the forecast.
- 1 2. (Currently Amended) The method[,] according to claim 1, wherein said controlling is done  
2 manually by hand.
- 1 3. (Currently Amended) The method[,] according to claim 1, wherein said controlling is done  
2 manually using [a] the computer system.
- 1 4. (Currently Amended) The method[,] according to claim 1, wherein said controlling is done  
2 automatically through [a] the computer system.
- 1 5. (Currently Amended) The method[,] according to claim 1, wherein said predetermined period  
2 of time is instantaneous.
- 1 6. (Currently Amended) The method, according to claim 1, wherein said predetermined period of  
2 time is [any] a chronological period of time.
- 1 7. (Currently Amended) The method, according to claim 1, wherein said predetermined period of  
2 time [may by any] is a non-chronological period of time.
- 1 8. (Currently Amended) A system for monitoring and controlling power consumption

2 comprising:  
3 a reader for obtaining power consumption data [from an electric utility service]; and,  
4 a computer system for collecting the data from the reader wherein the computer system is  
5 used [to create] in the creation of a forecast of electric power consumption for a predetermined  
6 period of time based on usage for a portion of the predetermined period of time and wherein a  
7 device that consumes [electricity] power is controlled based on the forecast.

1 9. (Currently Amended) The [method,] system according to claim 8, wherein said controlling is  
2 done manually using a computer.

1 10. (Currently Amended) The [method,] system according to claim 8, wherein said controlling is  
2 done automatically through a computer.

1 11. (Currently Amended) The [method,] system according to claim 8, wherein said  
2 predetermined period of time is instantaneous.

1 12. (Currently Amended) The [method,] system according to claim 8, wherein said  
2 predetermined period of time is [any] a chronological period of time.

1 13. (Currently Amended) The [method,] system according to claim 8, wherein said  
2 predetermined period of time [may by any] is a non-chronological period of time.

1 14. (New) The system according to claim 8, wherein the computer system controls the device so  
2 that usage for the predetermined time period falls below a predetermined amount.

1 15. (New) The system according to claim 14, wherein the predetermined amount represents a  
2 target and when usage falls below the target for the predetermined time period the user becomes  
3 entitled to a rebate.

1 16. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein the data obtained from the automatic reader  
2 is power consumption data for one or more circuits measured in amperage.

- 1 17. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein the data obtained from the automatic reader  
2 is power consumption data for one or more circuits measured in wattage.
- 1 18. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein the data obtained from the automatic reader  
2 is power consumption data for one or more circuits measured in kilowatt-hours.
- 1 19. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein the data is transferred from the reader to  
2 the computer memory device via wireless communications.
- 1 20. (New) The method according to claim 1 wherein the data is transferred from the reader to the  
2 computer memory device via wired communications.
- 1 21. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein the data is transferred from the reader to  
2 the computer system via wireless communications.
- 1 22. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein the data is transferred from the reader to  
2 the computer system via wired communication.
- 1 23. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein the predetermined period of time is two or  
2 more instantaneous time periods.
- 1 24. (New) The system according to claim 8, wherein the data obtained from the automatic reader  
2 is power consumption data for one or more circuits measured in amperage.
- 1 25. (New) The system according to claim 8 wherein the data obtained from the automatic reader  
2 is power consumption for one or more circuits measured in wattage.
- 1 26. (New) The system according to claim 8, wherein the data obtained from the automatic reader  
2 is power consumption data for one or more circuits measured in kilowatt-hours.

- 1 27. (New) The system according to claim 8, wherein the data is transferred from the reader to the  
2 computer memory device via wireless communications.
- 1 28. (New) The system according to claim 8, wherein the data is transferred from the reader to the  
2 computer memory device via wired communications.
- 1 29. (New) The system according to claim 8, wherein the data is transferred from the reader to the  
2 computer system via wirelss communications.
- 1 30. (New) The system according to claim 8, wherein the data is transferred from the reader to the  
2 computer system via wired communication.
- 1 31. (New) The system according to claim 8, wherein the controlling is done manually by hand.
- 1 32. (New) The system according to claim 8, wherein the predetermined period of time is two or  
2 more instantaneous time periods.
- 1 33. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein the computer system is used to  
2 control a security system.
- 1 34. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein the computer system is used to  
2 control a fire alarm system.
- 1 35. (New) The system according to claim 8, wherein the computer system controls a security  
2 system.
- 1 36. (New) The system according to claim 8, wherein the computer system controls a fire alarm  
2 system.
- 1 37. (New) The system according to claim 8, is responsive to a remote user interface, and  
2 operative to control a security system.

1 38. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein the computer system is used to control the  
2 device so that usage for the predetermined time period falls below a predetermined amount.

1 39. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein the predetermined amount represents a  
2 target and when usage falls below the target for the predetermined time period the user becomes  
3 entitled to a rebate.

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